## Characters • HE, a handsome young man • SHE, a sexy young lady • 3, a plump, middle-aged man • BODYGUARDS POLICEMEN \*\*\* following a character's name indicates: For She, that she thinks with a stupid expression (the others watch her). For He, that he looks disdainful (the others watch him). And for 3, that 3 looks with intense curiosity (the others watch him). Deadpan. Scene 1 SCENE 1 (The Doctor's Office. 3 and He sit. He is combing his hair. 3 takes a shoe off and drops it. At the sound of the shoe, He becomes motionless, his arms suspended in the air. 3 looks at He and freezes for a moment.) 3 What are you doing? HE Waiting. 3 What for? HE For the other shoe to drop. 3 Ah, and I was wondering what you were doing. If I hadn't asked, we would have stayed like that forever. You waiting and me wondering ... That's the kind of person I am. I ask ... That's good, you know. HE

Why?

3

\*\*\*

HE

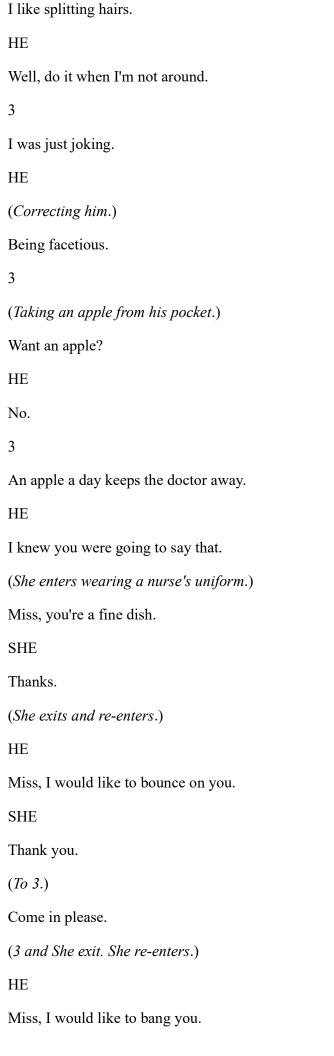
Why?

HE
What action did you start?
3
We're talking.
HE
That's nothing. We could as well be waiting for the shoe to drop.
(He suspends his arms in the air again. 3 stares at He. They remain motionless for a while.)
3
Sorry I'm going to do my sewing.
HE
First take the other shoe off. Get it over with.
3
(Taking off his shoe.)
I wasn't going to take it off.
(3 takes needle and thread and sews a button on his shirt.)
You see? If I do it now I don't have to do it later.
HE
What?
3
The sewing.
HE
And what are you going to do later?
3
***
(Puts the needle and thread away.)
Look, there are advantages to being optimistic.
HE
Sure.
3
What are they?

It starts action.

You tell me.
3
Well, it makes one feel happier.
НЕ
You don't look happy to me.
3
Oh, no?
HE
No.
3
Well, things are not what they appear to the eye.
НЕ
They aren't?
3
Are they?
HE
Sometimes sometimes they are just what they appear to the eye Don't generalize.
3
Why?
НЕ
Because there are always exceptions. There's always one that isn't like the others.
3
If it's just one, it can be thrown in with the rest. It doesn't matter.
НЕ
It matters.
3
Perhaps you can exclude it in your mind. Without mentioning it.
НЕ
You have to mention it You're splitting hairs anyway.

HE



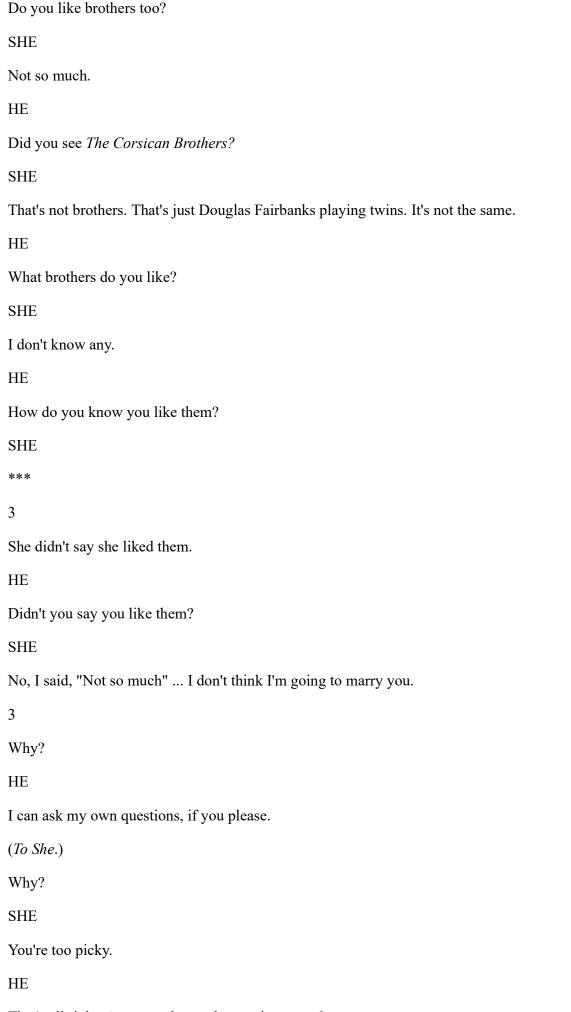
Your friend just did.
HE
Well, I'm next.
SHE
I only do it once a day.
HE
I get you all worked up and you do it with him instead?
SHE
***
HE
I'm handsome and sexy and I get you all worked up, and you go and do it with him? Answer now.
SHE
What?
HE
Is that natural?
SHE
I don't know.
(3 enters.)
HE
A moment ago I was thinking of marrying you.
SHE
You just saw me for the first time.
3
He figured he'd see you a few more times if he married you.
HE
Don't speak for me after you ruined everything. Let me try again. Miss would you go to the movies with me after work?
SHE
Okay, I like the movies.
HE
Everybody likes the movies.

SHE

SHE
I never liked them until a few months ago.
HE
What made you like them then?
SHE
I saw a movie with the Lane sisters.
HE
You like them?
SHE
Yes, they're all right.
HE
What do they do?
SHE
Stupid things.
HE
Like what?
SHE
They cry and laugh.
HE
That doesn't sound so great.
SHE
I like it. It's all right if you like sisters.
3
I like movies about marriage, divorce and remarriage.
SHE
I like sisters.
HE
I don't have any particular preference. I just like good movies with action and a lot of killing.
SHE
I couldn't go to the movies if I didn't have a preference.

Neither could I.
(3 takes She by the hand and exits. She re-enters.)
HE
Did you make it with him again?
SHE
Yes.
HE
How long are you going to keep this up?
SHE
I don't know.
(3 re-enters.)
HE
Listen, I was even thinking of marrying you.
SHE
You'd have to give me a ring for that. Two rings. An engagement ringand a wedding band.
3
I'll give the bride away.
HE
From the looks of it you're not leaving anything to give away.
3
And I'm not through yet.
HE
I didn't say you were.
3
You didn't say I was but you sure wish I were.
SHE
Me too.
HE
I never wish.
SHE
In my profession you have to wish.

For what?
SHE
***
HE
I don't have a profession.
SHE
How are you going to support me?
HE
I'll find a way.
3
He sure does have to support you. Doesn't he?
SHE
Yeah, my parents pay for the wedding and he supports me.
3
I'll pay for the wedding.
HE
He doesn't have any money. Get your parents to pay for the wedding.
SHE
Weddings are a pain in the neck.
3
Why do you want one then?
SHE
***
HE
Don't you see she doesn't know?
3
Yes, I see.
SHE
The Andrews sisters are all married.
HE



That's all right. Are we going to the movies or not?

Sure.
3
If you find a sister movie.
SHE
That's all right. I'll try another kind.
3
Let's go in for a quickie before you leave.
(3 and She exit. She re-enters wearing a hat.)
HE
Ready?
SHE
Yes.
HE
Hey, didn't you say you only do it once a day?
SHE
Yes.
HE
How come you did it with him three times already?
SHE
***
HE
You're not a liar, are you?
SHE
No.
HE
You better not be, because I can't stand liars.
(3 re-enters. He and She exit.)
3
Wait for me.
(3 exits.)

SHE

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SCENE 2
(The movies. The lights go down and flicker. He, 3 and She enter. They sit--3 in the middle, She and He at his sides.)
HE
Hey, what do you mean by sitting next to her? Change with me. She's my date.
3
I can't feel her up from there.
HE
You don't have to feel her up.
(3 and He change seats.)
3
How about some popcorn?
SHE
I'll go.
3
Don't go. Let him go.
HE
You go.
3
I can't.
(He exits. 3 moves next to She. He re-enters.)
HE
Move back to your seat.
3
I already moved once. I'm not moving twice. Let's have some popcorn.
(He offers popcorn to 3.)
I'll hold it because I'm in the middle.
(3 tries to hold the bag, eat popcorn, and feel She up.)
You hold the bag. I can't feel her up and eat at the same time if I hold the bag.
(He takes the bag.)
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Scene 2

HE

Scene 3
SCENE 3
(The porch. Ten years later. He dozes. She peels potatoes. 3 sews.)
SHE
I'm going to divorce him.
3
Give him another chance.
SHE
Him?
3
He's not bad.
SHE
Yes, he is.
3
There are worse.
SHE
No, there aren't.
3
Wouldn't it be worse if you were married to me?
SHE
What difference would it make?
3
It would make a difference.
SHE
No, it wouldn't.
3
Yes, it would.
SHE
What difference?

At least wait till the feature starts.

3

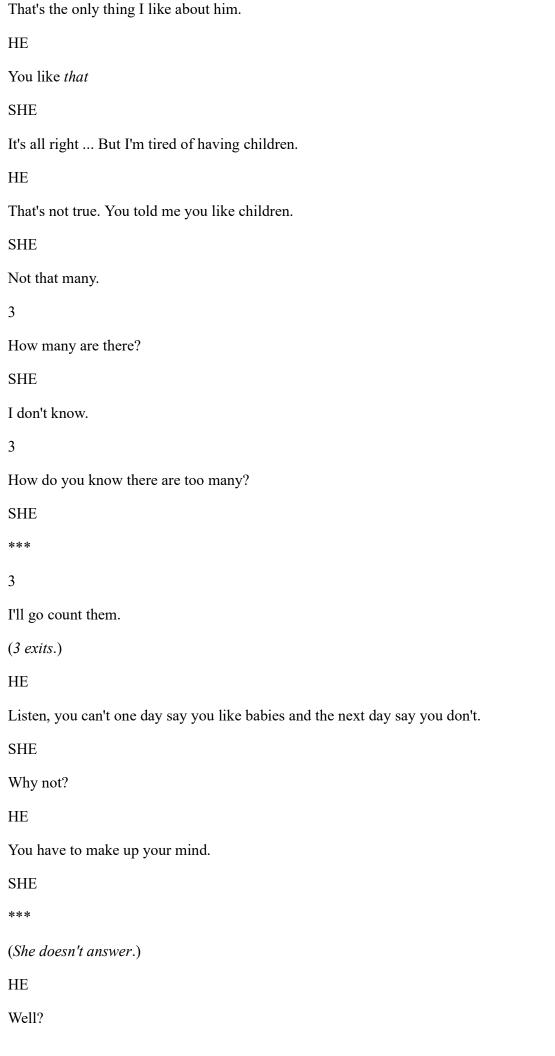
SHE
What difference?
3
I'll ask him.
(3 shakes He.)
Hey, would it make any difference if she was married to me instead of you?
HE
Yeah.
3
What difference?
HE
Ask her. She ought to know.
3
She doesn't know.
HE
She never knows anything.
3
Actually, this time she knows. She said it wouldn't make any difference.
HE
She's probably right, because she usually doesn't know anything.
SHE
I'm going to divorce him whether I'm right or wrong.
3
Marry a worse one for a while then remarry him and you'll be happier.
HE
That would be like wearing tight shoes so it feels better when you take them off.
3
That's the idea. Do it.
SHE
You can't do that.

Why not?
SHE
I don't know.
3
(To He.)
Do you know why you can't wear tight shoes so it feels better when you take them off?
НЕ
No.
SHE
But isn't it true that you're not supposed to?
HE
Yeah.
SHE
I knew it.
3
Well, you'd be happier if you did it.
SHE
You're not supposed to.
HE
(To 3.)
Get off that chair. I want to put my feet up.
(3 moves to another chair.)
3
Rivalry.
SHE
What?
3
Rivalry.
SHE

\*\*\*

Masculine rivairy.
SHE
***
3
Masculine rivalry.
(3 points to He and to himself.)
SHE
Who ever heard of such a thing.
3
What?
SHE
What you said.
3
Rivalry?
SHE
Yeah.
3
You haven't heard of it?
SHE
No.
3
I bet you he has.
(To He.)
Have you heard of rivalry?
HE
Sure.
3
See?
SHE
I mean the other.

Masculine?
SHE
Both, both together.
3
(To He.)
Have you heard of masculine rivalry?
HE
Yeah.
SHE
So he has.
(3 looks She over.)
3
I don't desire you any more.
SHE
Thank God.
3
Don't thank God. Thank me.
SHE
Stop picking on me.
HE
Are you picking on her again?
3
I can't help it.
НЕ
Stop picking on her.
3
Masculine rivalry.
HE
What are you talking about? There's no comparison. I'm sexy and you're slimy.
SHE



I can't stand the twins.
HE
Why not?
SHE
They look too much alike.
HE
Twins always do.
SHE
I didn't say they didn't.
HE
You didn't say they did either.
SHE
No, all I said was that I didn't like them.
HE
Why?
SHE
I don't see why they have to dress alike.
HE
Twins always do.
SHE
I didn't say they didn't.
HE
Bring the food out.
SHE
There's no food.
HE
How come?
SHE
You know how come.
HE

SHE

SHE
You're supposed to provide for me, but you don't.
HE
Don't I get you all the potatoes?
SHE
I'm going. I can't stand peeling potatoes all the time.
(She exits. 3 enters.)
HE
She left.
3
Oh.
HE
That's all right. I never want what I don't have.
3
I missed it.
HE
What?
3
Her leaving. I've been waiting around to see her leave, and now she does it when I'm not looking. How did she go?
HE
***
Scene 4
SCENE 4
(The porch. Three years later. He peels potatoes, 3 sews.)
3
I'm going into business. I can't stand this home life any longer.
HE
You wouldn't be any good at it.
3
I might as well try it.

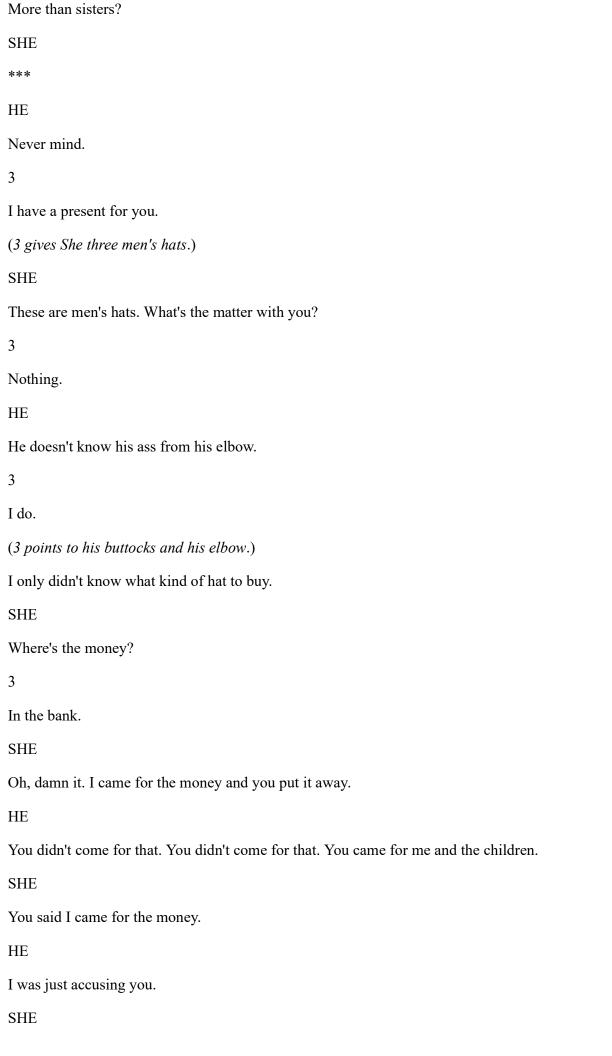
No, I don't.

HE
You would just lose all your money.
3
I don't have any money.
HE
How're you going to go into business?
3
I'll put a bid on some nylon rope, go south, convince the fishermen to use nylon instead of whatever they use, take the orders, come north, get the rope, go south, and take them for all they've got.
HE
They probably use nylon.
3
Then I'll sell it to them cheap and still make a fortune.
HE
It wouldn't work.
3
No? Well, I can make a sandwich with peanut butter and Ritz crackers, dip it in chocolate, call it Tootsie Tootsie, and sell it.
HE
You're better off with the nylon rope.
3
I thought so too. I'll go try it.
HE
Okay.
3
Goodbye. Give my love to Ruth if you see her. Have you seen her?
HE
Yes, she's happily married.
3
Who to?
HE
I don't know.

Well, if you see her, tell her I would still like a roll in the hay with her, even if she's getting old and decrepit.
HE
Okay, I'll tell her.
3
Goodbye. You do think it will work.
HE
Sure.
3
Goodbye then.
(3 exits.)
HE
Just said that to get rid of him.
3
Re-enters, wearing top hat and furs.)
t worked.
HE
Don't tell me it worked.
3
Respectfully.)
Dh, sorry.
HE
What do you mean it worked?
3
put a bid on some nylon rope, went south, convinced them fishermen to use nylon instead of whatever they were using, and ook them for all they had. D'you know rope is sold by the weight, not by the measure?
HE
Don't get smart with me, Arthur. I'm very annoyed. I have all the brains and the looks and it's you who goes south with your squeaky voice and sweaty hands and makes all the money.
3
And I'm not finished yet. I'm going to make that peanut butter sandwich and make another mint.

HE

You're making me sick.



And what was I supposed to say?
HE
"I didn't. I didn't. I came for you and the children." Defend yourself.
SHE
Well, I didn't.
HE
I don't have to stay here while you come back for his money. I'm sexy and bright and you're a bunch of morons. I'm leaving.
(3 puts his arm around She.)
You don't have to jump on her the moment I turn my back.
(3 lets go of She.)
SHE
I'm glad he caught you.
HE
You can do what you want. I'm leaving. Goodbye.
(He exits.)
SHE
What are we going to do without him?
HE
Wait for him.
Scene 5
SCENE 5
(The store. Three years later. He is standing. 3 steals a pipe.)
HE
Arthur!
3
What are you doing here?
HE
I'm a store detective.
3
How long have you been a store detective?
HE

3
Is the pay good?
HE
Not for the risk you take.
3
What risk?
HE
You might get hit or knifed.
3
Who would do that?
HE
The thief. You see, I grab him like this. I identify myself and I tell him to go with me to the office. Then he either becomes frightened and comes along quietly, or becomes violent and attacks me.
(3 punches He and runs.)
Scene 6
SCENE 6
(The porch. A few minutes later. She peels potatoes. 3 enters smoking the pipe.)
3
I just saw him. He's a detective.
HE
I don't like detectives.
3
Why?
SHE
I can't understand them.
3
Why not?
SHE
They talk too fast.
3

Since I left the house.

He's a store detective. They don't talk fast.

SHE
A store detective is not a real detective.
3
Someone stole something though.
SHE
Did he figure out who did it?
3
I don't know. I hit him and ran.
SHE
You didn't run so fast. You're late for dinner Did you figure Who did it?
3
Yeah, I did it.
SHE
What did you do?
3
(Showing her the pipe.)
Stole it.
(He enters.)
HE
Why did you hit me?
SHE
SHE  Is that a way to come in after you've been gone for three years? Can't you say hello?
Is that a way to come in after you've been gone for three years? Can't you say hello?
Is that a way to come in after you've been gone for three years? Can't you say hello?  HE
Is that a way to come in after you've been gone for three years? Can't you say hello?  HE  I don't feel like saying hello.
Is that a way to come in after you've been gone for three years? Can't you say hello?  HE  I don't feel like saying hello.  SHE
Is that a way to come in after you've been gone for three years? Can't you say hello?  HE I don't feel like saying hello.  SHE You could at least pretend.
Is that a way to come in after you've been gone for three years? Can't you say hello?  HE I don't feel like saying hello.  SHE You could at least pretend.  HE

HE

Why?
3
Because I'm the thief and you're the detective.
HE
What did you steal?
3
Guess.
HE
I give up.
3
The pipe.
HE
Now I have to take you in.
3
You have to identify yourself.
HE
Don't be silly. You know me. Come on.
3
Goodbye, Ruth.
SHE
Goodbye.
Scene 7
SCENE 7
(The porch. Three days later. She and He are sitting.)
SHE
How come you came back now?
HE
Because he's away Masculine rivalry.
SHE
That's what he always says.
НЕ

SHE
How come he was stealing?
HE
He didn't know he could take the money out of the bank.
SHE
Can he?
HE
Yeah.
3
(Enters wearing a prisoner's uniform.)
I organized a revolt and got out.
HE
Can't you stay put in one place?
3
Can't I?
HE
No, you're always jumping from place to place.
3
I'll stay put now. Ruth, even if you're getting old and decrepit, I still want you. Jail makes a man want a woman.
HE
You disgust me. You spend three days in jail and you don't learn anything.
3
I did so. I organized the prisoners and now I'm the head of the mob. If you want I'll make you my bodyguard.
HE
You call that a body?
3
I know. I have to do some exercise. But in the meantime I'll call it a body.
HE
It is not all right with me. I'm leaving.
SHE

So what. It's true.

3
Like Shane Stay and have some fun. The guys are coming presently.
HE
What kind of idiot are you that says presently?
3
No idiot. I'm the Alec Guinness-type gangster.
HE
God damn it. I'm getting fed up. You have no style, no looks, you act like an old housewife, and it's you who gets to go to jail and become the head of the mob.
SHE
Let's eat.
HE
Okay, but if you want me to be your bodyguard, you have to give me a good salary No. I don't care if you get slugged. Goodbye.
(He exits.)
3
You be my bodyguard, Ruth.
SHE
Okay, but I don't move from this chair.
3
You have to move. You have to keep an eye on me.
SHE
Skip it. Who wants to look at you all the time.
3
Okay. Don't be my bodyguard. I'll get the guys to look after me.
Scene 8
SCENE 8
(The porch. Six months later. 3 and She sit. 3 is armed to the teeth. Bodyguards surround him.)
3
I have a sweet streak in me.
SHE

He's always leaving.

3
***
SHE
What did you say?
3
I have a sweet streak in me.
SHE
Me too.
3
I'm tired of the life of crime.
SHE
Why don't you stop stealing?
3
I like stealing.
SHE
I thought you said you were tired of crime.
3
Yes, but not of stealing.
SHE
You're not supposed to steal.
3
Says who?
SHE
***
3
You don't know anything. I'm going to steal from the rich and give to the poor.
SHE
I came back for the money and you're going to give it to the poor? I'm leaving.
3
Where are you going?

Where?

SHE
I'll go find a Joan Fontaine movie.
3
What good would that do you?
SHE
She's Olivia de Havilland's sister.
3
No, she's not.
SHE
Yes, she is.
3
They don't look alike.
SHE
The Lane sisters don't look alike either.
3
No, but they act like sisters.
SHE
***
(3 exits. She stands puzzled.)
Scene 9
SCENE 9
(The store. A few minutes later. He is standing. 3 walks by surrounded by bodyguards.)
HE
Come with me to the office. You penny-pinching sonofabitch hoodlum. I finally caught you.
3
What for? I just came to get a Zorro costume.
(3 puts on a Zorro costume.)
HE
You look like an idiot, like you always did. Did you steal it?
3
I bought it.

HE
Show me the sales slip.
3
I lost it.
HE
You stole it.
(To the bodyguards.)
Did he steal it?
BODYGUARDS
Yeah.
HE
Come with me.
3
Don't be silly. If I'm Zorro and the store is rich, I have to steal from it. Now I have to give something to the poor. Here's a penny.
HE
I'm turning you in anyway. I'll get fired if I don't catch someone soon I haven't caught anyone since the last time I caught you. Get moving.
3
No, I won't. I have better things to do, like ride around the pampas with my mask on. Come with me and you can ride too.
HE
What kind of idiot d'you think I am. You'll make me do all the riding and cut all the Z's and you'll get all the credit. You do your own dirty work.
3
No, I won't I'm getting too old to ride around like an idiot.
HE
You used to do your own dirty work.
3
Yeah. But now I'm rich and lazy.
(To a bodyguard.)
Can you ride?
(Bodyguard shakes his head.)
Can you ride?

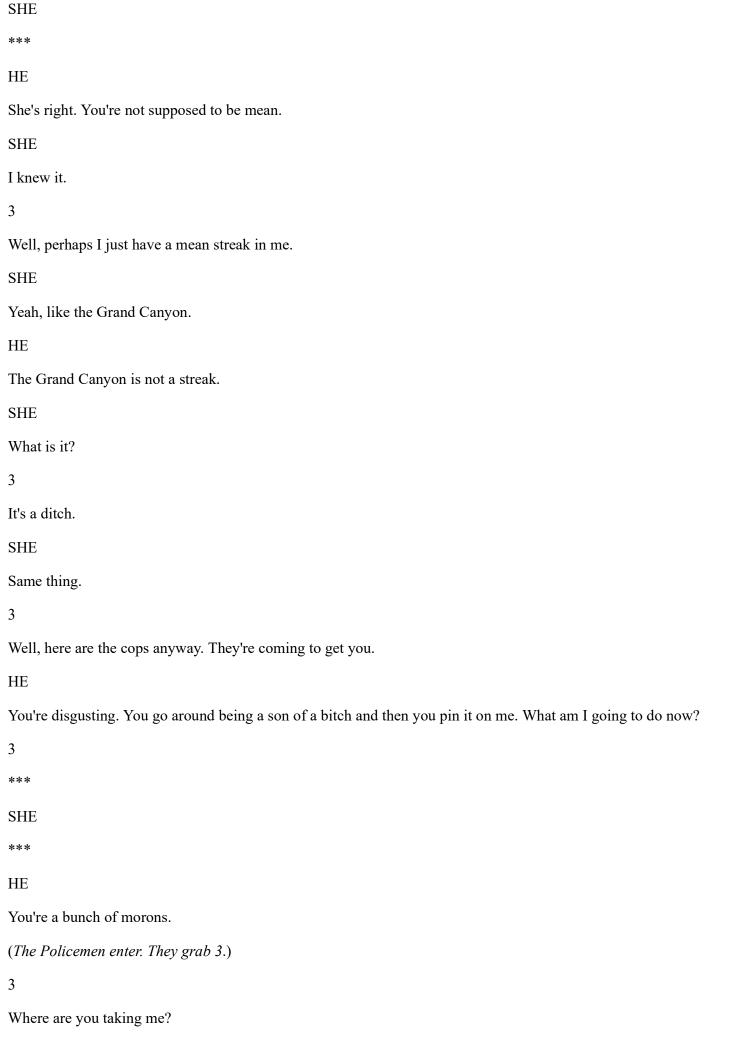
(Bodyguard shakes his head.)
Get out of my way. I don't need you any more.
(To He.)
Can Ruth ride?
HE
No, she can't do anything.
3
That's all right. I'll go to some rodeo and get myself a double.
(3 exits.)
Scene 10
SCENE 10
(The porch. Three days later. He sits. 3 enters panting.)
3
Hide me.
HE
What from?
3
I'm being followed.
HE
What did you do?
3
I got tired of stealing from the rich and giving to the poor and started stealing from the rich and the poor. Hide me.
HE
I won't hide you. I don't care if they catch you.
3
Hide my antifaz then.
HE
What's that?
3
My mask. Do you know that Zorro means fox in Spanish?
HE

3
I thought they were going to fire you.
HE
I caught a girl who didn't do anything and they let me stay.
3
That's not nice. Where's Ruth?
HE
She went to see Joan Fontaine and never came back.
3
Did she take any money with her?
НЕ
She doesn't need money. She married the guy who owns the movie.
3
How're the children?
НЕ
They're all right. They're always playing doctor.
3
Are they sick?
HE
No, they just play doctor.
(The Policemen enter and grab 3.)
3
Where're you taking me?
POLICEMEN
To the scaffold.
3
Oh! Merciful God.
(The Policemen take 3 away. 3 re-enters, carrying a bouquet.)
НЕ
I thought they were going to hang you.

Never mind. I don't care if Zorro means fox. I can't hide your antifaz. I'll lose my job if I get caught with stolen goods.

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I got out of it. Here's Ruth. She must have broken up with that movie man.
(She enters. 3 gives her the flowers.)
SHE
How did you know I was coming?
3
I didn't.
HE
How did you get out?
3
I told them you did it.
HE
I'll lose my job at the store.
3
Don't let that worry you. You won't need a job any more. They're coming back to get you any minute.
(To She.)
What made you come back?
SHE
I'm old and tired and I've had too many men. I'm just going to sit here and rest for the rest of my life.
3
Oh no you won't. You have to work for your keep. Scrub the floor.
HE
I'm going to the store. I can't stand seeing my wife scrubbing floors.
SHE
Don't go. I'm not going to scrub no floors. You've become a mean old sonofabitch, Arthur.
3
I was always mean. I just didn't know it.
SHE
You're not supposed to be mean.
3
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Why not?



POLICEMEN
To the scaffold.
3
I just came from there.
(The Policemen take 3 away.)
SHE
Are you going to miss him?
HE
No, he's a son of a bitchare you?
SHE
What?
HE
Going to miss him?
SHE
***
(3 enters with a bouquet of flowers and gives them to She.)
HE
How come you always come back with flowers?
3
They have them there.
SHE
What for?
3
For the grave.
HE
Did you steal them?
3
No, they give them to you.
SHE
They go bad if they don't use them.
НЕ

How did you get away this time? 3 They caught the real Zorro. SHE I thought you were the real Zorro. 3 No, I'm too young. HE Bring in the food, Ruth. **SHE** What food? 3 I have some Tootsie Tootsies. (They eat Tootsie Tootsies. A Policeman enters. 3 shoots him dead.) I'm not armed to the teeth for nothing. (They freeze for a moment. Then they sing the "Song to Ignorance.") ALL Let me be wrong But also not know it. Be wrong, Be wrong, And, oh, not to know it. Oh! Let me be wrong. 3 One day while walking Down the street, I found a petunia And took it. I took it. Oh! Let me be wrong. **ALL** Let me be wrong. But also not know it. Be wrong, Be wrong, And, oh, not to know it. Oh! Let me be wrong.

**SHE** 

HE
To where?
SHE
I don't know where. I called a parasol an umbrella. Yes, an umbrella. Oh, let me be wrong. I don't care.
ALL
Let me be wrong. But also not know it. Be wrong, Be wrong, And, oh, not to know it. Oh! Let me be wrong.
НЕ
I sprechen sie dutch very well I said to Herr Auber: Herr Auber, I sprechen sie Dutch very well, Herr Auber. Oh! Let me be wrong.
ALL
Let me be wrong. But also not know it. Be wrong, Be wrong, And, oh, not to know it. Oh! Let me be wrong. Oh! Let me be wrong. Oh! Let me be wrong. I want to be wrong!
(They repeat the song and walk down the aisles selling Tootsie Tootsies.)
END

I went from here